Grant of Agricultural loans

2983. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount of agricultural loans sanctioned to the farming sector as on 30th June, 1987 by nationalised banks as well as Co-operative Banks for the purpose (a) crop loan (b) medium term loan (c) amount of rescheduled loan and (d) purchase of implements how much is outstanding as on 30th June, 1987;

(b) what were the outstandings during the last 3 years State-wise; at village societies level, district level and Apex level as on 30th June, every year; and

(c) whether the Government propose to reduce the incidence of cost-push effect due to higher rate of interest and other expenses on account of input prices, energy and irrigation charges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) The information is laid on the table of the House. [*See* Appendix CXLVII Annexure No. 118].

(b) The information is laid on the table of the House. [*See* Appendix CXLVIII Annexure No. 119].

(c) The rates of interest on crop loans have been reduced with effect from 1-3-88. As regards cost-push effect on account of input prices, energy and irrigation charges, the information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Houes.

Alternative strategy for helping small and marginal farmers

2984. SHRI A G KULKARNI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government prepared any alternative strategy to help small and marginal farmers to meet their financial commitments in response to persistent demand in debt redemption of the agricultural communiiy particularly small farmers and state:

(b) whether the yearly terms of trade between Agriculture and Industry during the last three years; and

(c) whether the adverse terms of trade between prices of agricultural goods and manufactured goods will be reversed to help farming community?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) No, Sir. The Government has not proposed any new strategy to help small and marginal farmers to meet their financial commitments. However, with a view to help farmers in redeeming their debts the State Government have already enacted suitable legislation to provide relief from private debts. The Reserve Bank of India/National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) have also issued guidelines for providing relief to farmers in the repayment of agricultural loans by way of moratorium, rescheduling, interest reduction and exemption from penal interest and compound interest, under special circumstances.

(b) and (c) The Commission for Agriculture Costs and Prices takes into account the changes in terms of trade between agricultural and non-agricultural sector while recommending the procurement support prices.

Inclusion of banjaras in the ST list

2985. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the inclusion of an estimated three crores population of Banjaras living in Andhra Pradesh,

Orissa, Bihar, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, and Union Territory of Delhi in the list of Scheduled Tribes is under consideration of Government; and

(b) if so, progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI): (a) and (b) Banjaras are already included in the lists of Scheduled Tribes in Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Bihar. In the States of Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh and the Union Territory of Delhi they are included in the list of Scheduled Castes. All proposals regarding revision of the list of Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes shall be considered before a comprehensive proposal for amending the lists is brought before Parliament.

Further, amendment in the existing lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes can be done only through an Act of Parliament in view of Articles 341(2) and 342(2) of the Constitution.

Price rationalisation scheme

2986. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Price Rationalisation Scheme for inputs is likely to be a part of the policy reforms being considered to achieve more widespread growth in the agricultural sector;

(b) whether the Planning Commission has been making efforts to develop a package of more appropriate projects for such region as also to involve the financial institutions more directly in the agricultural planning process; and

(c) if so, whether a number of studies have been taken on various aspects of agricultural development following the Prime Minister's directive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. The Price rationalisation measures for inputs such as fertilisers, seeds and pesticides have already been initiated by the Government of India.

(b) and (c) The Special Foodgrain Production Programme based on the recommendations of the Task Force, set up by the Planning Commission, has been launched in 14 States in consultation with the State Governments. This programme envisages greater involvement of financial institutions in providing agricultural credit. Further, a number of studies have been taken up in pursuance of the directive of the Prime Minister to examine the potentialities of different agro-climatic regions for agricultural development.

Loss to Bombay branch of NCCF

2987. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether an enquiry into the Rabi purchases '87 of Akola depot, Bombay branch of NCCF was conducted in early 1988 by a Head Office Official;

(b) whether the said enquiry revealed active involvement of two officers resulting into loss of Rs. 7 lakhs to NCCF; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken against the corrupt officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The enquiry was conducted in March, 1987.